

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2, and claim 2 has been canceled accordingly. Further, other claims has been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 2 and to make other changes.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Preliminarily, Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement was filed on March 10, 2010. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the disclosed information and return an initialed PTO/SB/08 form with the next communication from the PTO.

Obviousness Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 2, claims 1, 4-5, and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolla et al. (Chromatographia, 23, 7, pp. 465-472) in light of Gordon et al. (US 4,507,411).

In response, Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2, which was not included in this rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that this rejection has been overcome, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 2-3 and 6-15

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 2-3 and 6-15 (with respect to their dependence from claims 2-3) as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-3 and 6-15 (with respect to their dependence from claims 2-3) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of the Examiner's indication, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the recitations of claim 2, thereby in essence placing claim 2 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (there are no intervening claims).

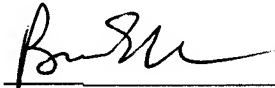
Accordingly, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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